

Shauna Ng Rui En

Piano, Performance Grade 1

Overall result: **Merit****Anon.: A Toy (No. 193 from Fitzwilliam Virginal Book)****27/30**

A clear, bright tone was employed, with a firm sense of pulse which danced along successfully until slight hesitancy, near the end. The rhythms and pitches were all precise, with chords placed neatly together. There was scope for subtler softer nuances and increased shape to the phrases, but the lively character was enhanced by crisp articulations and a fast pace.

Mozart: Minuet in C, K. 6**26/30**

A dance-like tempo and moving pulse were established at the outset. There was a brief pause at the end of the first section, only. The rhythms flowed effectively with clearly defined articulations and a good balance between the hands, although leaving room for greater dynamic variety and shape to the phrases, for a more elegant feel.

Trad. Irish: Down by the salley gardens, arr. Blackwell**24/30**

The left hand was audibly placed, thus losing the desired over-ringing effect. Quite a fast tempo to fully reflect the 'tenderly' direction, and there were falters to the pulse in several phrases, so the sense of forward momentum was disturbed at times. Pitches were accurately read, with the 'rallentando' observed, but there were missed opportunities for more sensitive dynamic shading. However, the legato lines were attractively smooth.

Papp: Szöcske (No. 15 from 22 Kis Zongoradarab)**24/30**

A spritely character was evoked in the snappy staccato notes and bright tone, at the start, played at a suitably fast pace. There were small note smudges, e.g. on the first note and some of the chords, with brief fluctuations to the pulse and occasional unevenness in the quavers, and much of the dynamic detail was overlooked. Nonetheless, the firm accents and accurate articulations created a buoyant interpretation.

Performance as a whole**25/30**

There was a sense of involvement in the music in this varied programme, and the characters of the pieces were quite effectively conveyed. A feeling of haste between items affected the pacing, however, with room for more time to allow the music to settle. Stylistic elements were observed, in the varied articulations and textural balancing between melody and accompaniment. Technically, a secure tone was produced, but with potential for more variety to the dynamics, including contouring to the phrases. A secure level of pitch and rhythmic accuracy was achieved, despite some occasional fluctuations to the pulse which sometimes disturbed the flow.

Pass 100 | Merit 120 | Distinction 130

Total mark: **126/150**